

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 07154 021046Z

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 EB-03 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3896

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7154

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, ECON, ENRG, CG

SUBJECT: POL SWAP

REF: KINSHASA 7134

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH BISENGIMANA
AUGUST 1, I ASKED HIM IF HE'D HAD A REPORT ON MOBIL REP
WILLIAMS' TALKS WITH PETRO-ZAIRE CHIEF MPUYE. HE SAID
HE HAD AND THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT WILLIAM HAD IN-
SISTED THAT THE MOBIL COPENSATION CLAIM BE SETTLED FIRST--
AND THEN MOBIL WOULD CONSIDER HELPING ON THE SWAP. BISENGIMANA
SAID COLDLY, "WE HAVE MADE IT PLAIN FROM THE BEGINNING THAT
WE WILL PAY COMPENSATION. I HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL REPORTS
FROM THE COMPENSATION COMMISSION, SUGGESTING AMOUNTS AND WE
ARE WORKING DILIGENTLY TO SETTLE ON THIS ISSUE. WHAT WE
CANNOT ACCEPT, HOWEVER, IS AN ULTIMATUM." (BY THE WAY,
BISENGIMANA INFERRED HERE THAT IT WAS PETRO-FINA'S
ENORMOUS CLAIM THAT WAS HOLDING UP THE OTHERS).

2. I SAID THAT I WAS SURE WILLIAMS HAD DELIVERED NO SUCH
ULTIMATUM SINCE I KNEW HIM TO BE A FRIEND OF ZAIRE AND HIS
COMPANY TO BE ESPECIALLY ALERT TO THE WAYS OF DOING BUSINESS
HERE. I REMINDED BISENGIMANA THAT IT WAS MOBIL AND
WILLIAMS WHO HAD BEEN MOST IMAGINATIVE IN FINDING WAYS TO
CONTINUE TO BE HELPFUL AFTER THE NATIONALIZATIONS.

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 07154 021046Z

3. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, WILLIAMS MADE ONLY GLANCING REFERENCE
TO THE COMPENSATION ISSUE WHEN HE TALKED WITH MPEYE,BUT
DID HIT IT HARD IN HIS TALKS WITH KITENGE OF ENERGY, MAKING
IT CLEAR THAT INTERIM HELP ON POL WAS RELATED TO COMPENSATION.
WALKER

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NNN

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